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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s
New York, 26 September 1995
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Draft provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

Background note

In its resolution 48/171, of 21 December 1993, the General Assembly, inter alia, decided to convene a high-level intergovernmental meeting to conduct a Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action, in the second half of 1995; stressed the importance of timely, adequate and thorough preparations; requested the Trade and Development Board to consider, at its Spring session in 1994, the elaboration of the preparatory activities, including intergovernmental, expert, sectoral and inter-agency preparatory meetings and the substantive documentation; and decided to consider at its forty-ninth session the recommendations of the Trade and Development Board on preparations for the Mid-term Global Review.

In response to the above, the Trade and Development Board, in its Decision 412(XL), of 29 April 1994, made a series of recommendations to the General Assembly concerning the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

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In its resolution 49/98, of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided to convene the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting in New York from 26 September to 6 October 1995, to be preceded by a one-day meeting of senior officials on 25 September 1995. The Meeting shall carry out the mid-term global review, consider new measures as necessary, and report to the General Assembly on progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to make recommendations to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, with a view to ensuring that the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has sufficient capacity to undertake an effective follow-up of the outcome of the Mid-term Global Review, and to follow up the conclusions and recommendations relating to the least developed countries adopted by major United Nations conferences.

At its Spring session in 1995, the Trade and Development Board, in response to paragraph 6 of its decision 412 (XL), of 29 April 1994, considered the status of preparations for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

In its agreed conclusions 423 (XLI), of 31 March 1995, the Board inter alia, recommended to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting a draft provisional agenda and proposed organization of work for that Meeting, as contained in the annex to the agreed conclusions.

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The pre-conference meeting of senior officials may wish to approve the draft provisional agenda recommended by the Trade and Development Board, as reproduced in section I below. It may also wish to approve the proposals for the organization of work in section II below, which are based on the recommendations made by the Board in the annex to agreed conclusions 423 (XLI).

I. DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA*

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

   (a) Review of progress in implementation at the country level;

   (b) Review of progress in international support measures;

   (c) Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade

4. Other business

5. Adoption of the report.

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* Recommended by the Trade and Development Board in the annex to agreed conclusions 423 (XLI) of 31 March 1995. See report of the Board on the second part of its forty-first session (TD/B/41(2)/15 (Vol.I)), page 17.

II. ANNOTATION TO THE DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s may wish to use the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, as appropriate.

The Meeting shall elect a Chairman and twenty-nine Vice-Chairmen, one of whom will assume the duties of Rapporteur.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Agenda

The draft provisional agenda for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Global Review, as recommended by the Trade and Development Board, is reproduced in section I above.

Organization of work

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting will have nine working days. The secretariat will prepare a tentative timetable for the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

The Meeting may wish to establish a Committee of the Whole in addition to the Plenary. The general debate will take place in the Plenary. The Committee of the Whole may wish to consider and report on agenda item 3.

The Committee of the Whole will be conducted by the Chairman of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting.

Item 3: Mid-term global review of progress towards the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s:

(a) Review of progress in implementation at the country level;
(b) Review of progress in international support measures;
(c) Consideration of new measures for ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme over the second half of the decade

For the consideration of these substantive items the Meeting will have before it the following documentation:

Report of the Meeting of Governmental Experts of Donor Countries and Multilateral and Bilateral Financial and Technical Assistance Institutions with Representatives of the Least Developed Countries, held in Geneva from 29 May-2 June 1995 (TD/B/LDC/GR/5 and TD/B/LDC/AC.2/2). This meeting was convened as part of the preparation for the Mid-term Global Review on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s. Its report contains an assessment and possible recommendations for consideration by the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting, as called for by the Trade and Development Board at the second part of its forty-first session (paragraph 6 of Agreed conclusions 423 (XLI)).

The Least Developed Countries 1995 Report (TD/B/41(2)/4 - UNCTAD/LDC(1995)). The report, the eleventh in the series, was, as in the previous years, the main background document for the Trade and Development Board's annual review. In view of the Mid-term Global Review, this year's Report takes a retrospective look at the progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action since its adoption in 1990 and analyses the difficulties encountered in sustaining development. Chapter I analyses LDCs' economic and social performance during 1990-1994, and reviews in particular LDCs' experiences with adjustment and the design and implementation of reforms, and draws policy conclusions. Chapters II, III and IV examine the experiences and performance of LDCs in agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, respectively. Progress in the implementation of international support measures in the areas of official development assistance (ODA), debt and external trade is discussed in chapters V and VI. The Report also contains an annex on Basic Data series on the Least Developed Countries.

Contributions from United Nations organizations, and other competent international and regional organizations, will be available to the High-level Meeting in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/98, paragraph 9.

The following documents will also be available to the High-level Meeting as background material:

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Fiscal Policy Reforms in the Least Developed Countries (16-17 March 1995) (TD/B/LDC/GR/1)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Women in Development in the Least Developed Countries (24-26 January 1995) (TD/B/LDC/GR/2)

Report of the Expert Group Meeting on Trade Diversification in the Least Developed Countries (10-11 April 1995) (TD/B/LDC/GR/3)

In addition, the following previously issued documents are of relevance:

- Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the 1990s for the Least Developed Countries (UNCTAD/RDP/LDC/58).

- Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/CONF.147/18).

Item 4: Other business

Item 5: Adoption of the report

The High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Mid-Term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s will submit its report to the General Assembly in accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/98.